Guideline framed for awarding catering/ vending licences in Railways

*627. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines framed for awarding catering/vending licences and allotment of Railways Stalls at Railway Platforms etc. in Railways indicating the quota, if any, allotted for SC/ST applicants;

(b) the number of applications received for the above purpose from the Western Railway particularly from Gujarat State during 1992-93 and 1993-94, indicating the number of SC/ST applicants; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard and how many stalls and vending licences were allotted to SC ST candidates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIFF): (a) to (c) Allotment of catering/vending licences on Railways is being undertaken by the Zonal Railways in accordance with the guidelines laid down vide Ministry's letter No. 91/TG.III/600/15 dated 6.1.1992 whereby applications are called for and are duly processed as per the prescribed procedure. Preference to SC ST candidates is allowed only in regard to allotment of catering/vending licences at small and wayside stations

During 1992-93, 65 applications including 11 from SC/ST candidates were received by the Western Railway in response to notifications for allotment of one Refreshment Room at New Bandra Terminus and one stall and two trolleys at Marwar Jn. SC/ST candidates were among the candidates not found suitable for the award of aforesaid licences During 1993-94 the Western Railway received 63 applications including 8 from SC/ST candidates in response to notification for allotment of catering/ vending licence for one stall and two trolleys at Gandhidham Station which are under finalisation.

Mobilisation of cost effective technologies

*628. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not so for finalised any modalities for mobilisation of cost-effective technologies for storage processing and marketing of agriculture produce,

(b) whether it is also a fact that nothing has been done by his Ministry for organisational restructuring or for the domestic market so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government contemplate to take or have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) With a view to allow freedom of choice to the entrepreneurs for utilisation of cost effective technologies for storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products, Government has liberalised foreign technology acquisition by the entrepreneurs and is disseminating information on cost effective technologies through seminars, workshops, discussions and publication of literatures. Such dissemination is also done through State Nodal Agencies, Small Service Institute and Food Processing Training Centre. Ministry has initiated action for futher dissemination of information through electronic media.

Government is also encouraging/ assisting setting up of various post-harvest infrastructures such as sorting, grading packing, pre-cooling, modified atmosphere storage, cold chains etc. for storage, transportation and marketing of food products in the domestic markets as well as for exports Besides, Ministry is also operating a scheme for providing